

EXHIBITIONS AND NOTICES.

March 8th, 1921.

Sir S. F. HARMER, K.B.E., F.R.S., Vice-President,
in the Chair.

In the absence of the donor, Dr. R. W. SHUFELDT, C.M.Z.S., three photographs of the last of the Passenger-Pigeons (*Ectopistes migratorius*) presented by him to the Society, were exhibited by Dr. P. CHALMERS MITCHELL, C.B.E., F.R.S., who read the following notes from Dr. Shufeldt:—"The specimen was a female which

Text-figure 1.

Passenger-Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*).

died in the Zoological Gardens of Cincinnati in September 1913, where she had lived in captivity for a number of years with

others of the same species. From time to time these others died, until only the female remained—the sole living representative of the endless millions that originally were to be found in the United States.

“When the dead specimen came to the United States National Museum, I posed it in three different positions, that anterior, posterior, and lateral views of the body might be photographed. New York State, when I was a boy, had annually in its avifauna its millions of these pigeons (*Ectopistes migratorius*), and they were slaughtered there every season, as they were all over the country and in all the States.”

Mr. R. I. Pocock, F.R.S., F.Z.S., exhibited, and made remarks upon, the skull of a Sumatran Tiger.

On behalf of Messrs. Gerrard & Sons, Mr. R. I. Pocock exhibited, and made remarks upon, a Cheetah skin from Tanganyika Territory, showing an interesting modification in the arrangement of the markings on various parts of the coat.

March 22nd, 1921.

Sir S. F. HARMER, K.B.E., F.R.S., Vice-President,
in the Chair.

The SECRETARY read the following Report on the Additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of February 1921:—

The registered additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of February were 143 in number. Of these 50 were acquired by presentation, 53 were deposited, 36 were purchased, and 4 were born in the Menagerie.

The following may be specially mentioned:—

1 Nylghau (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*), ♂, from India, deposited by H.G. The Duke of Bedford, K.G., F.R.S., on February 24th.

2 Capybaras (*Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*), from S. America, deposited on February 5th.

1 Collared Peccary (*Tayassu tajacu*), from S. America, purchased on February 10th.

2 Pied Starlings (*Spreo bicolor*), from South Africa, new to the Collection, purchased on February 15th.

A collection of 20 Pheasants and 17 Peafowl, presented on February 21st by the Hon. Nathaniel Charles Rothschild, F.Z.S.

April 5th, 1921.

Prof. E. W. MACBRIDE, D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.S., Vice-President,
in the Chair.

Dr. P. CHALMERS MITCHELL, C.B.E., F.R.S., Secretary of the Society, exhibited, and made remarks upon, a series of lantern-slides of a Baby Chimpanzee born in the New York Zoological Park.

Sir S. F. HARMER, K.B.E., F.R.S., exhibited, and made remarks upon, a photograph of Elephant Twins.

Mr. E. G. BOULENGER, F.Z.S., exhibited, and made remarks upon, the following Reptiles and Batrachians:—a young specimen of *Testudo nigra*, *Monopeltis capensis*, *Siphonops annulatus*, and *Phryniciscus nigricans*.

Miss L. E. CHEESMAN, F.E.S., exhibited, and made remarks upon, a nest of *Anapha venata* (Lepidoptera).

April 19th, 1921.

Sir S. F. HARMER, K.B.E., F.R.S., Vice-President,
in the Chair.

The SECRETARY read the following Report on the Additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of March 1921:—

The registered additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of March were 276 in number. Of these 73 were acquired by presentation, 34 were deposited, 153 were purchased, 7 were received in exchange, and 9 were born in the Menagerie.

The following may be specially mentioned:—

3 Wapiti (*Cervus canadensis occidentalis*), ♂ ♀ ♀, from Vancouver, presented by the Govt. of British Columbia through the Game Preservation Board on March 30th.

1 Persian Gazelle (*Gazella subgutturosa*), ♂, from Mesopotamia, presented by Maj.-Gen. Sir Percy Cox, K.C.M.G. on March 29th.

1 Bennett's Gazelle (*Gazella bennetti*), ♀, from Feluja, Mesopotamia, presented by Major Chadwick on March 29th.

1 Black Wallaby (*Macropus ualabatus*), from New South Wales, presented by H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, K.G., on March 4th.

1 Scarlet-breasted Sunbird (*Cinnyris gutturalis*), from Durban, South Africa, new to the Collection, presented by Harold Millar, C.M.Z.S., on March 18th.

1 Southern Tree-Snake (*Dryophis dispar*), from India, new to the Collection, presented by A. P. Kinloch, on March 26th.

Mr. R. H. BURNE, M.A., F.Z.S., exhibited, and made remarks upon, a series of mounted specimens of young Flat Fish, demonstrating various stages in the transference of the left eye to the right side of the head.

Dr. P. CHALMERS MITCHELL, C.B.E., F.R.S., read the following extract from a letter he had received from Mr. E. H. Bean, Director of the Washington Park, Milwaukee, Wis., U.S.A., describing the successful rearing of a Polar Bear Cub:—"Our cub was born December the 2nd, 1919. I am quite sure the period of gestation was eight months. I removed the female bear in September. She was placed in a smaller compartment of our bear den, alone. The sleeping den is small, about 6x8 ft. The outside enclosure was also small, with a bathing tank in same. The mother bear bathed regularly up to about three weeks before the cub was delivered. We attempted to give her bedding prior to the birth of the cub, but she always put it outside and preferred the bare boards to sleep upon. She stopped eating about three days before the cub came. About nine o'clock in the morning, December the 2nd, I passed her cage, detected a strange sound, which at first I thought to be a stray cat, but upon investigation, found to be coming from the polar bear cage. It happened to be twelve below zero that morning, and the den door faced the north, from which direction a very stiff wind was blowing. The mother bear had her back to the opening, and it seemed as though she had the baby cuddled up against her abdomen, and covered it as best she could with her great paws. I called the keeper, and he took a bale of straw on the rocks above the den door and gradually dropped a few handfuls down. I watched to see the effect it would have upon the mother bear. She did not seem to be disturbed at all, just raised her head up, looked around, and then settled back. We continued until we had shaken up two bales of straw, pushing same well up into the mouth of the den. During the night she took all of this straw inside, and at intervals of a few days we continued until she had seven bales of straw. It was very interesting to note her ability to determine approaching storms. When a storm was on the way, she would pack the opening from the inside, just leaving a

small vent at the top. When mild weather was on, she would take her paws and pat the straw down until the opening was practically full size. She left the nest at the end of seven days for food and drink, and continued to do so until along in April, when she permitted the baby to come out. The nest was so constructed that it resembled a large wicker basket. For a few weeks the baby would crawl out and look over the side, but mother was always there to discourage any attempt on the baby's part to leave the nest.

"We have four adult polar bears that came to us direct from Bergen, Norway, in 1912. I have accustomed them to what might be considered a peculiar diet for this class of animals. We feed them on bread, apples, carrots, boiled rice, dried stock-fish, a mess of fresh fish seldom, and no meat whatever. They get a pan of cod-liver oil now and then, grass of all kinds during the summer months, also dog biscuits. The adult bears have a sleeping den on the hillside 8×47 ft. deep and 7 high, and an outside enclosure 50×60 ft., containing ledges, grottos, etc., also a bathing tank 15 ft. wide, 30 ft. long, and 8 ft. 5 inches deep. The bears bathe continuously, and are one of our main attractions in the collection.

"We used every precaution not to disturb our mother bear. The day that she was out for food I peeped into her nest, and this baby was about as large as a full-grown guinea-pig, fully furred, and with two little black eyes like beads. I could not determine when it had opened its eyes. It is a wonderful cub, only had one sick spell, and that lasted only for a few hours."

Mr. C. DAVIES SHERBORN, F.Z.S., exhibited a coin of the Saka Dynasty (Punjab Region) of King Arzes (Ayasa), showing the so-called "maneless lion" of Asia, about B.C. 30. This coin belongs to the Bactrian Series, and is inscribed in Greek on one side and in Pali on the other.

Mr. F. MARTIN DUNCAN, F.Z.S., exhibited, and made remarks upon, a series of lantern-slides of a remarkable nest of the Wasp (*Vespa germanica*).

Mr. D. SETH-SMITH exhibited a series of skins of the Australian Budgerigar (*Melopsittacus undulatus*), showing the various colour-varieties that have been produced in captivity. He remarked that the species was apparently first imported alive in Europe by John Gould in 1840, since when not only had it been freely brought home, but it had bred in captivity so readily that now it might be said to be a domesticated species, and, like other domesticated species, certain colour-varieties had been produced. There

was the well-established yellow variety, the rarer blue variety, and a so-called olive variety, and recently a nearly pure white bird (which was shown) had been bred by Mr. H. D. Astley.

These varieties were produced by the elimination or partial elimination of the two primary pigments, yellow and black, which were present in the normally-coloured green bird. The yellow variety showed entire lack of black pigment, the blue variety was entirely lacking in yellow pigment, the blue colour being produced by a combination of black pigment and prismatic feather structure.

The olive variety Mr. Seth-Smith was unable to show, but it appeared to be a case in which both yellow and black pigments were weak, while the unique white specimen was an instance of the elimination of both the black and yellow pigments.

Major E. E. AUSTEN, D.S.O., F.Z.S., drew attention to an apparent change of habitat on the part of the Common Cricket (*Gryllus domesticus*), and described a recent visit he had paid to a large refuse dump where he had observed the Crickets in considerable numbers.